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EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/701,190	DIGIROLAMO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeanette E. Chapman	3633	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 November 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-44* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-44* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 35-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soucy in view of Pellock (6393794).

Claim 1.

Soucy discloses a stud spacer 32 for extending between two studs 12 comprising:

a. a main member 34 adapted to extend between the two studs 12;

b. the main member 34 including first and second end portions 38 and 36-42;

c. a projection 38 and 42 extending from each end portion;

d. wherein the main member 34 and the projections form the stud spacer 32; and

e. wherein the projections of the main member are configured to interlock with similar projections of other stud spacers; see figures 1-2.

Soucy lacks the following:

d. a pair of spaced apart end flanqes extending from each end portion in a direction .qenerally normal to the projection;

e. wherein the end flanqes are disposed on opposite sides of the projection and the projection extends outwardly past the end flanqes;

f. wherein the main member, the projections, and the end flanges form the stud spacer.

Pellock discloses the following:

a. a main member 10 adapted to extend between the two studs 12/13;

b. the main member 10 including first and second end portions 36 and 38;

c. a projection 36 and 38 extending from each end portion;

d. wherein the main member 10 and the projections form the stud spacer ; and

e. wherein the projections of the main member are configured to interlock with similar projections of other stud spacers; see figures 1-2.

f. a pair of spaced apart end flanges 54/56 and 86 extending from each end portion in a direction generally normal to the projection 36/38;

g. wherein the end flanges 54/56 and 86 are disposed on opposite sides of the projection 36/38 and the projection 36/38 extends outwardly past the end flanqes;

f. wherein the main member 10, the projections 36/38, and the end flanges form the stud spacer.

claim 37.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer of claim 1 wherein the stud spacer 10 includes a pair of generally parallel side flanges 54/56 and 86 extending normally from the main member and from one end of the main member to another end of the main member.

Claim 38.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer of claim 1 wherein the main member includes a web having opposite ends, the projections 36 and 38 projecting outwardly from the ends of the web, and the web and the projections are generally co-planar.

claim 39.

The stud spacer of claim 1 wherein:

a. the main member 10 includes a web 22 having opposite ends, the projections 36 and 38 project outwardly from the ends of the web, and the web and the projections are generally co-planar;

b. the stud spacer 10 includes a pair of generally parallel side flanges 30/32 extending normally from the web of the main member and from one end of the main member to another end of the main member;

c. the end flanges 54/56 and 86 and the projections 36 and 38 extending from common ends of the main member; and

d. the end flanges54/56 and 86 on each end portion of the main member are generally co-planar and are configured to abut a web of a stud; see figures 1-2

Claims 2-25, 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soucy in view of Cubbler, Jr. et al (3979874) and Pellock (6393794).

Claim 2.

(Original) The stud spacer of claim 1

Soucy lacks each projection includes a locking surface, an opening , a deflector disposed adjacent the opening, and a stop. Cubbler Jr. et al discloses an alternative securing means between spacers 12/ 14. The securing means includes:

- Projections 42 Note the projections are considered as extending from the point adjacent reference number 42 to the beginning of element 20 in figure 5.

- A locking surface between 44 and 46
- An opening adjacent or on the inside of element 60
- Deflector or cam surface 66 disposed adjacent the opening
- A stop 50

Soucy lacks the following:

d. a pair of spaced apart end flanqes extending from each end portion in a direction .qenerally normal to the projection;

e. wherein the end flanqes are disposed on opposite sides of the projection and the projection extends outwardly past the end flanqes;

f. wherein the main member, the projections, and the end flanges form the stud spacer.

Pellock discloses the following:

a. a main member 10 adapted to extend between the two trusses 12/13;

b. the main member 10 including first and second end portions 56/54 and 86;

c. a projection 36 and 38 extending from each end portion;

d. wherein the main member 10 and the projections form the stud spacer ; and

e. wherein the projections of the main member are configured to interlock with similar projections of other stud spacers; see figures 1-2.

f. a pair of spaced apart end flanges 54/56 and 86 extending from each end portion in a direction generally normal to the projection 36/38;

g. wherein the end flanges 54/56 and 86 are disposed on opposite sides of the projection 36/38 and the projection 36/38 extends outwardly past the end flanqes;

f. wherein the main member 10, the projections 36/38, and the end flanges form the stud spacer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Soucy to include the end flanges in order to include a stronger spacer for the frame as shown by the secondary references.

claim 3.

Cubbler Jr. et al discloses when two projections 42 are interlocked, the locking surface of one projection engages the stop 66 of the other projection. See figures 3 and 5

claim 4.

Cubbler discloses that each projection 42 is elongated and when connected to a similar projection at least partially overlies or underlies the similar projection. See figures 3 and 5 and accompanying text.

claim 5.

Cubbler et al discloses that each of the two projections includes a deflectable terminal end 48 and an opening adjacent or on the inner side of 60.

claim 6.

Cubbler, Jr. et al each projection includes a terminal end portion adjacent ref number 42, a locking tab 48 disposed on the terminal end portion a deflector 58 disposed inwardly of the locking tab 48; an opening, adjacent 58, formed in the projection adjacent the deflector 58; and a stop 48 disposed inwardly of the opening.

claim 7.

Soucy discloses a stud spacer assembly for extending between a series of studs , comprising:

a. least first and second stud spacers 32 wherein each stud spacer extends between a pair of studs 12;

b. said first stud spacer including a first projection 38 and said second stud spacer including a second projection 42;

c. said first and second projections adapted to interlock so as to connect the first and second stud spacers together, see figures 1-2; and

Soucy lacks each projection includes a locking surface, an opening , a deflector disposed adjacent the opening, and a stop and wherein when interlocked, the locking surface of the first projection is engaged with the stop of the second projection and the locking surface of the second projection is engaged with the stop of the first projection.

Cubbler Jr. et al discloses an alternative securing means between spacers 12/ 14. The securing means includes:

- Projections 42
- A locking surface between 44 and 46
- An opening adjacent element 64, see figure 5
- Deflector or cam surface 66 disposed adjacent the opening
- A stop 50

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify soucy to include the alternative securing means wherein each projection includes a locking surface and a stop and wherein when interlocked, the locking surface of the first projection is engaged

with the stop of the second projection and the locking surface of the second projection is engaged with the stop of the first projection as shown in figures 3 and 5 of Cubbler , Jr. et al. in order to provide a more secure attachment between spacers 32 preventing inadvertent dislodgment

claim 8.

Cubbler, Jr. et al discloses that when connected the first and second projections overlie each other. See figures 3 and 5 and accompanying text.

claim 9.

Cubbler discloses that each projection 42 includes an opening adjacent 64 and wherein when connected the first projection 42 extends through the opening of the second projection 42 and the second projection 42 extends through the opening of the first projection 42. See figures 3 and 5 and accompanying text.

claim 10.

Cubbler, Jr. et al discloses at least a portion 48/58 of each projection 42 is at least slightly yieldable such that a portion of each projection can slightly flex during the course of interconnecting the projections.

claim 11.

Cobbler, Jr. et al discloses that each projection 42 includes an opening, adjacent 64 and a deflector 58 and wherein the locking surface of each projection is formed on a terminal end portion of the projection 42 and wherein when connected the terminal end portion of the first projection projects through the opening in the second projection and the terminal end portion of the second projection projects through the opening in the first

projection. The projection has been considered as extending from the pointed end to member to element 20 shown in figure 5;

claim 12.

Cubbler , Jr. et al discloses the deflector 58/66 of the first projection 42 deflects the terminal end of the second projection 42 through the opening , adjacent 64 of the first projection 42 and wherein the deflector 58/66 of the second projection 42 deflects the terminal end of the first projection 42 through the opening, adjacent 64 in the second projection 42.

claim13.

Cobbler, jr. et a discloses the locking surface includes a tab 48 and the stop 50 includes a tab receiving opening, figure 5, adjacent 54, and wherein when the first and second projections 42 are interconnected the first projection is extended over a portion of the second projection and a portion of the first projection is inserted through the opening adjacent 64 in the second projection such that the locking tab 48 of the first projection 42 seats within the tab receiving opening, adjacent 54 formed in the second projection 42 and wherein the second projection 42 is extended underneath a portion of the first projection 42 and a portion of the second projection 42 is inserted through the opening, adjacent 64 in the first projection 42 wherein the locking tab 48 of the second projection seats within the tab receiving opening , adjacent 54, of the first projection 42. See figures 3 and 5.

claim 14.

Cubbler et al discloses each projection 42 includes a deflector 58 disposed adjacent the tab receiving opening, adjacent 54 and 64, and wherein the deflector 58/66 on the first projection deflects a portion of the second projection 42 upwardly through the opening adjacent 54 and 64, in the first projection, and wherein the deflector 58/66 in the second projection 42 deflects a portion of the first projection 42 downwardly through the opening, adjacent 54/64, in the second projection 42.

claim 15.

Cubbler, Jr. et al discloses the locking surface of each projection includes a tab 48 and wherein the stop 50 of each projection 42 includes a tab receiving opening adjacent 54 and when the projections are connected the respective tabs 48 are seated within the tab receiving openings, adjacent 54.

claim 16.

Soucy discloses a wall structure, figure 1 comprising:

a. a series of spaced apart studs 12 with each stud having an opening formed therein; see figure 2

b. a series of stud spacers 32 extending between respective studs;

c. each stud spacer including first and second projections 38 and 42 that extend from opposite ends of the stud spacer; See figures 1-2 and 4

d. said first and second projections 38 and 42 of each stud spacer 32 adapted to connect to first and second projections of other stud spacers so as to interconnect the stud spacers of the wall structure, figures 1-2; and

e. Soucy lacks each projection including a locking surface and a locking stop and

wherein when interconnected the locking surface of the first projection is engaged with the locking stop of the second projection and the locking surface of the second projection is engaged with the locking stop of the first projection. Cubbler , Jr et al discloses each projection 42 including a locking surface and a locking stop 50 and wherein when interconnected the locking surface of the first projection 42 is engaged with the locking stop 50 of the second projection and the locking surface of the second projection 42 is engaged with the locking stop 50 of the first projection.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify soucy to include the alternative securing means wherein each projection includes a locking surface and a stop and wherein when interlocked, the locking surface of the first projection is engaged with the stop of the second projection and the locking surface of the second projection is engaged with the stop of the first projection as shown in figures 3 and 5 of Cubbler , Jr. et al. in order to provide a more secure attachment between spacers 32 preventing inadvertent dislodgment.

Soucy discloses each stud spacer including first and second projections 38 and 36/40/42 that extend from opposite ends of the stud spacer, at least one of the projections 36 extending in a , generally horizontal plane, the horizontal plane being generally normal to a web of an adjacent stud; soucy lacks the following:

d. each stud spacer further including first and second pairs of end flanges, the first pair of end flanges formed on a first end of the stud spacer and the second pair of end flanges formed on a second, opposite, end of the stud spacer;

e. the end flanges of the first pair of end flanges being disposed on opposite sides of

the first projection and the end flanges of the second pair of end flanges being disposed on opposite sides of the second projection;

Pellock disclsoes the following:

d. each stud spacer further including first and second pairs of end flanges, 56/86 the first pair of end flanges formed on a first end of the stud spacer and the second pair of end flanges formed on a second, opposite, end of the stud spacer;

e. the end flanges of the first pair of end flanges being disposed on opposite sides of the first projection and the end flanges of the second pair of end flanges being disposed on opposite sides of the second projection; see figures 1-2

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Soucy to include the end flanges in order to include a stronger spacer for the frame as shown by the secondary references.

claim 17.

Soucy discloses when connected the respective projections 38 and 42 at least partially overlie one another. See figures 1-2

claim 18.

Cubbler et al discloses the first projection 42 includes a terminal end portion, adj ref no. 42 in figure 2, and an opening adjacent 54/64 and the second projection 42 includes a terminal end and an opening adjacent 54/64 and wherein the terminal end portions of the respective projections 42 are projected through the openings within the projections when the projections are interconnected.

claim 19.

Soucy discloses a method of interconnecting a first stud spacer 32 with a second stud spacer 32 extending between studs 12in a wall structure, column 1, lines 60-65 wherein the first stud spacer 32 includes a first projection 38 and the second stud spacer includes a second projection 42, comprising the steps of:

a. projecting the first and second projections of the first and second stud spacers through an opening in a stud; see figures 1-2

Soucy discloses projecting the first projection 38 through an opening in the second projection but lacks engaging a locking surface associated with the first projection with a stop associated with the second projection; and

Soucy further lacks projecting the second projection through an opening in the first projection and engaging a locking surface associated with the second projection with a stop associated with the first projection.

Soucy lacks each projection includes a locking surface, an opening , a deflector disposed adjacent the opening, and a stop. Cubbler Jr. et al discloses an alternative securing means between spacers 12/ 14. The securing means includes:

- Projections 42
- A locking surface between 44 and 46
- An opening adjacent or on the inside of element 60
- Deflector or cam surface 66 disposed adjacent the opening
- A stop 50

Cubbler et al further discloses projecting the first projection 42 through an opening adjacent 54/64 in the second projection 42 and engaging a locking surface associated

with the first projection with a stop 50 associated with the second projection 42; and cubbler et al further discloses projecting the second projection 42 through an opening, adjacent 54/64 in the first projection 42 and engaging a locking surface 50 associated with the second projection 42 with a stop 50 associated with the first projection 42. Cubbler discloses each projection 42 includes a locking surface 50, an opening 54/64 , a deflector 58/66 disposed adjacent the opening 54/64, and a stop 50.

Soucy also lacks abutting an end flange formed on an end of the first stud spacer to a face of a web of the stud and abutting an end flange formed on an end of the second stud spacer to an opposite face of the web. Pellock discloses abutting an end flange 54/56 and 86 formed on an end of the first stud spacer to a face of a web of the stud 13 and abutting an end flange 56/86 formed on an end of the second stud spacer to an opposite face of the web. See figure 2 of Pellock

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify soucy to include the end flanges which abut to provide a continuous fit to the frame

Claim 20.

Cubbler et al discloses engaging the first projection 42 with a deflector 58/66 associated with the second projection 42 and deflecting the first projection 42 through the opening adjacent 54/64 , in the second projection 42, and engaging the second projection 42 with a deflector 58/66 associated with the first projection 42 and deflecting the second projection 42 through the opening adjacent 54/64 in the first projection.

claim 21.

Cubbler, Jr. et a discloses at least slightly bending a portion 58 of each projection as the two projections 42 are interconnected.

claim 22.

Cubbler , Jr. et al discloses the projections are at least slightly flexed in response to engaging the respective deflectors 66 carried by the projections. Note the projections are considered as extending from the point adjacent reference number 42 to the beginning of element 20 in figure 5.

Claim 23.

Cubbler et al discloses the locking surfaces comprise locking tabs 48 and wherein the stops 50 comprises locking seats 52 and wherein when the projections 42 are interconnected the locking tabs 50 of the respective projections are seated within the locking seats 52 of the projections.

claim 24.

Cubbler , Jr. et al discloses including contacting a terminal end of the first projection 42 with a deflector 66/58 disposed on the second projection 42 and deflecting the terminal end of the first projection 42 downwardly through the opening adjacent 54/64 in the second projection 42; and contacting a terminal end portion of the second projection 42 with a deflector 66/58 on the first projection 42 and deflecting the terminal end of the second projection 42upwardly through the opening adjacent 54/64 42 in the first projection.

Claim 25.

Cubbler, Jr et al discloses the locking tabs 48 carried by the first and second projections 42 snap into the tab receiving openings adjacent 54/64 once the terminal ends of the respective projections 42 have been inserted through the openings adjacent 54/64 in the respective projections.

Claim 42.

Pellock discloses the wall structure of claim 16 wherein a portion of at least one of the studs 12/13 is sandwiched between one of the end flanges 54/56 and 86 of one of the stud spacers 10 and one of the end flanges of 54/56 another of the stud spacers 10.

claim 43.

Pellock discloses the method of claim 19 wherein projecting the first projection 36 into an opening 72 in the second projection 38 includes extending together the first projection and the second projection between end flanges 54/56 and 86 of pairs of end flanges formed on respective ends of two of the stud spacers 10.

claim 44.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer of claim 7 wherein the stud spacer comprises an elongated substantially planar web 22 and pair of side flanges 30/32 extending at angles from the web and disposed on opposite sides of the web, and wherein at least one of the projections 36/38 lies generally in a plane that is perpendicular to the web of the stud spacer.

See above for motivation statement regarding combining Pellock with Soucy.

Claims 29-34, 40, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soucy in view of Cubbler, Jr. et al and further in view Pellock (6393794

claim 29.

Pellock discloses The stud spacer assembly of claim 7 wherein each stud spacer includes a web 22 having opposed first and second ends, and wherein each stud spacer includes first and second pairs of spaced apart end flanges 56 and 86, the first pair of end flanges disposed formed on the first end portion[s] of the stud spacer and extending from the first end of the web, and the second pair of end flanges formed on the second end portion and extending from the second end, the end flanges for connecting the stud spacer to a pair of spaced apart studs. See figures 1-2

Claim 30.

Pelock discloses The stud spacer assembly of claim 29 wherein each stud spacer includes a pair of spaced apart flanges 56 and 86 disposed on each end portion thereof for connecting to one stud 13.

Claim 31.

Pellock discloses that each stud spacer includes one or more flanges 54/56 and 86 disposed on opposite end portions for connecting each stud spacer to at least two spaced apart studs 13 that form a part of the wall structure; and wherein each flange is connected to one stud 56/86 such that the series of stud spacers that form a part of the wall structure are interconnected to the studs

claim 32.

Pellock discloses a wall structure wherein each consecutive pair of studs 12 of the wall structure are interconnected by a stud spacer 10, and wherein the stud spacer includes at least one flange 54/56 disposed on opposite ends thereof, and wherein each flange

is connected to one stud 12/13.

claim 33.

Pellock discloses securing at least one of the first or second stud spacers 10 to the stud 12/13.

claim 34

Pellock discloses stud spacers which include one or more flanges 54/56 disposed on one or more end portions thereof, and wherein the method includes fastening the one or more flanges 54/56 and 86 of at least one of the stud spacers 10 to the stud 12/13 thereby interconnecting the stud 12/13 with at least one of the stud spacers 10

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Soucy to include the flanges in order to strengthen the assembly in the area of the connecting of the stud to the spacers as shown by Pellock

Claim 35.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer of claim 1 wherein:

a. the end flanges 54/56 and 86 are generally co-planar; and

b. the end flanges 54/56 and 86 and the projection 36 and 38 extend from a common end of the main member.

claim 36.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer of claim 35 wherein the end flanges 55/56 and 86 are configured to abut a web of a stud.

claim 40.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer assembly of claim 29 wherein the first projection 36 extends between the first pair of end flanges 54/56 and 86 and outwardly from the first end of the web, and the second projection 38 extends between the second pair of flanges 54/56 and 86 and outwardly from the second end of the web 22.

claim 41.

Pellock discloses the stud spacer assembly of claim 40 wherein the end flanges 54/56 and 86of at least one of the pairs of end flanges are co-planar and extend in a direction normal to the web 22.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chapman E. Jeanette whose telephone number is 571-272-6841. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-thursday, 8:30-6:00, every fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JEANETTE CHAPMAN/
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3633

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